



Evanston AYSO Soccer

<https://www.evanstonsoccer.org>

Key Reminders for Coaching 5U/6U

General logistics:

- Practice starts at the time listed on the website. Each “field” has two small fields, one for each team to practice on.
- After 30 minutes of practice, break to play games against your opponent. Play 2 simultaneous games of 3v3 or 4v4 depending on the number of players present.
- Set up and take down portable goals and flags each week; please secure goals with stakes.
- Ask all parents to download the GameChanger app and use it by Saturday to let you know whether their child is coming. This will help you plan and balance playing time.
- If one team doesn't have enough kids for even games, please lend players/mix teams as needed. Players should have both uniforms, and you have pinnies you can use.
- Ask parents and other spectators to sit separately from you and your players during practice and games so you can keep track of the kids and keep their attention. Involve parents as needed for injuries or managing player behavior.
- Managing player behavior: If players are unable to listen and follow instructions during practice, or otherwise participate appropriately for their age, you can have them sit out an activity or send them over to their parents for a short break (but don't forget about them!). If you need support managing persistent issues, email coach@evanstonsoccer.org or commissioner@evanstonsoccer.org.
- Please let us know about problems or concerns before they escalate! via coach@evanstonsoccer.org and commissioner@evanstonsoccer.org

Game Management:

- 5 minute quarters for games. Substitute at the quarter breaks only except for injuries.
- Coaches can be on the field to manage/referee the game and help keep things moving. Work together with the “opposing” coaches - we're all working together to help the kids learn and develop.
- The priorities are safety and keeping play going. Stop play for safety concerns, clear out of bounds, and major rule violations (picking the ball up and carrying it, visibly shoving another player, etc.).
- Use kick-ins for returning the ball to play, not throw-ins.
- Keep any directions to players during play short and minimal. You should not be directing every move. Coach during practice and at the quarter breaks.
- Players are not allowed to stand in or directly in front of the goals as pseudo-goalies. Move them out of the goal areas.
- Kids should get equal playing time. Aim to balance total quarters played across games, since not all kids can play the exact same number of quarters each week.
- If teams are clearly unbalanced in skill or the score becomes very uneven, try:
 - Switch kids between the two games to get better balance.
 - Set a rule that only players on your team who haven't scored yet can shoot on goal – everyone else should help those players score instead of shooting themselves.
 - Mix players between teams at half time - either swap 1 or 2 key players, or make new teams that mix up all players.